

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application.

Drawings Objections

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The features which enable the assembling step in claims 10 and 18 and the inter-engaging steps in claims 10-18 are shown in the drawings and comprise the medial interengageable portions 26 and 30 of the securing elements 20 and 22. Each of the plurality of front panel edge brackets 20 is generally w-shaped, and each of the plurality of side panel edge brackets 22 is generally m-shaped, and the medial interengageable portions 26 and 30 of the front and side panel edge brackets 20 and 22 are complementary and interengage so as to interfit for enabling the assembling and interengaging of the side and front panels 12, 16 (specification, page 2 line 22 - page 4, line 19).

Specification Objections

The specification was objected to as not providing a proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The securing means in claims 9 and 18 have proper antecedent basis in the specification, in that they correspond to the plurality of securing elements in claims 1 and 10, are defined as statutory means claims in claims 9 and 18, and have the same basis in the specification as the securing elements, in the securing elements 20 and 22.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not adequately described in the specification. The enablement description in the specification with regard to complementary and interengageable securing elements is as set forth in the response above to the drawings objections.

Claims 10 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The method claim 10 defines a method of assembling a sauna cabin, wherein the system which is assembled includes securing elements and panels. The sauna cabin itself is not defined in claim 10 as an element of the method of assembling the sauna cabin in claim 10.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Wheat patent (U.S. Patent No. 1,681,074).

Wheat discloses a sectional partition and panel structure, which includes partition sections and pilasters, which are secured together by locking plates 13 and 18. The locking plates 13 and 18a are provided at their center with an aperture through which any suitable fastening element may be driven into the partition (page 1, lines 86-93; figures 4, 6, and 6a), and the locking plate 18 has a medial slot 19 (page 2, lines 5-8; figure 6).

In contrast to Wheat, in the claimed invention, the front and side panel edge brackets 20 and 22 include medial interengageable portions 26 and 30 which are complementary and interengageable. The medial interengageable portions 26 and 30 of the claimed invention do not have apertures therein, are not fastened to the side and front panels 12 and 16, and do not include a medial slot, contrary to Wheat. If the features of Wheat were incorporated in the claimed invention, they would prevent the complementary interengagement of the medial interengageable portions so as to interfit for enabling assembling and securing of the front and side panels.

Dependent Claims

In view of the patentability of the underlying independent claims over Wheat as set forth above, it is submitted that the claims depending therefrom are likewise patentable.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted in view of the above that there is no teaching or suggestion of applicant's invention as claimed in the claims submitted herewith, within the scope of the disclosure of the cited reference, without extensive modification and the exercise of inventive talent.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that it be passed to issue. If there are any issues which can be discussed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at (310) 242-2732.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: Howard N. Sommers
Howard N. Sommers
Registration No. 24,318

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
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